

OPPOSE:

Senate Bill 16

AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME

Dear Co-Chair Winfield, Co-Chair Stafstrom, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Blumenthal, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Fishbein, and all members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity. I would respectfully ask that you oppose SB 16.

So much of this bill only infringes on people's rights.

Opposing SB 16 is very important to me. As a law abiding gun permit holder, the bill would take away my already legally registered and compliant CT "Other" firearm. Banning pistol stabilizing braces would compromise my ability to properly brace my firearm to my forearm because of my small stature as a woman.

The overwhelming majority of all gun crimes in the state are committed by prohibited persons who are not lawfully permitted to possess a firearm. However, the Governor spoke not just about his abhorrence of illegal firearms in this state but legal as well, demonstrating **his indifference between criminals and law abiding gun owners.**

Governor Lamont further returned to a "stop and frisk" tactic allowing citizens to be questioned without suspicion of a crime. **This unconstitutional requirement to show carry permits without cause would open the door for harassment and profiling. The Governor's plan is contradictory to the spirit of the very laws he signed last year limiting police engagement particularly in our urban communities.**

In 2021, thousands of residents became new permit holders. **Background checks for firearm purchases soared to record setting numbers.** The Governor's proposals demonstrate that he is out of touch with the people of Connecticut and woefully disconnected from his failed policies which have resulted in the demand for more access to self-defense.

Please also **OPPOSE** H.B. No. 5416

Please **SUPPORT** the following bills: **S.B. No. 388, H.B. No. 5415 and H.B. No. 5412**

Thank you again,

Karen Wellington
Greenwich, Connecticut